



## YELENA VOROBYEVA & VIKTOR VOROBYEV

### Kazakhstan. Blue Period

**Opening 12 November 2009, 18.30**

The artists will be present

The exhibition will run until 09/01/2010

*Opening times:*

*Tuesday - Saturday 15.00 - 19.00*

Kazakhstan, Blue Period #11, 2002–2005

Laura Bulian Gallery is pleased to announce ***Kazakhstan. Blue Period***, the first European solo exhibition by **Yelena Voroboyeva and Viktor Vorobyev**, which will be inaugurated on 12 November 2009.

These two artists, who are currently exhibiting at the Central Asia Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, and also exhibited there in 2005, started working on common projects in the mid Nineties, exploring different languages such as sculpture, painting, photography, installation and performance.

The photographic cycle *Kazakhstan. Blue Period* recalls the period in their country's history just after independence, when the turquoise blue flag was adopted as a new national symbol. This series of photographs, taken while travelling all over Kazakhstan, is an ironic account of how this colour substituted the red of the Soviet era, constituting a homogeneous and poetic unit bound together by the colour blue, as a common denominator, and a profound interest in the details of everyday life.

The series of sculptures *Petrifications* shows how everyday objects can escape the destruction of consumerism to become "immortal": thanks to the artist's craft a petrified iron, mobile phone, light bulb or teapot can find their way into the museum of the future and bear witness to our present time. In Central-Asian mentality, even technological objects are ironically considered as gifts of nature.

The artists declare that it is still unclear "whether it is humanity that consumes the product or the product that consumes humanity".

Yelena Vorobyeva (1959) and Viktor Vorobyev (1959) live and work in Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan).

#### **A selection of major exhibitions since 2002 :**

2009: *Making Interstices*, Central Asia pavilion, 53<sup>rd</sup> International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Italy

*Translation*, Queens Museum of Art, New York, USA

2008: + 007, NCCA, Moscow, Russia

*Tracing Roads Trough Central Asia*, YBCA, San Francisco, USA

*Unrealized Projects*, Stuttgarter Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Germany

*Nos realites*, Le Quartier, Centre d'art contemporain de Quimper, France

2007: *The Paradox of Polarity: contemporary art from Central Asia*, Bose Pacia Gallery, New York, USA

*Return of the Memory. New Art from Russia*. KUMU Art Museum, Tallinn, Estonia

*Progressive Nostalgia. Contemporary Art from the Former USSR*. Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato Italy

2006: *Zones Of Contact*, 15<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney, Australia

2005: *Art From Central Asia: a Contemporary Archive*, Central Asia Pavilion, 51<sup>st</sup> International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Italy

2004: *From Red Star To Blue Dome, in the frame Islamic Worlds*, IFA Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2003: III International Biennial of Graphics Art, Novosibirsk, Russia

2002: *No Mad's Land*, House of World Cultures, Berlin, Germany